AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) An optical apparatus comprising:

a base;

a driven element provided on the base;

an ultrasonic motor constructed from a vibrating element, the ultrasonic motor being provided on the base, the vibrating element including a first piezoelectric element that undergoes extension and contraction by application of an AC voltage, a reinforcing plate having a contact portion and an arm portion, and a second piezoelectric element that undergoes extension and contraction by application of an AC voltage, in which the first piezoelectric element, the reinforcing plate and the second piezoelectric element being laminated in this order, and the vibrating element being supported on the base through the arm portion so that the contact portion abuts on the driven element, in which driving force is generated by the vibration of the vibrating element, and the driven element is driven by means of the driving force from the ultrasonic motor;

an imaging portion mounted on the base;

an optical system disposed above the imaging portion so as to face toward the imaging portion and to be spaced from the imaging portion for a predetermined spacing, the optical system emitting light to the imaging portion; and

a switching mechanism for adjusting the amount of the light emitted to the imaging portion from the optical system, the switching mechanism being provided so as to move between the optical system and the imaging portion in association with the driving of the driven element.

18. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the switching mechanism has at least one of a diaphragm portion, a filter portion, and a mechanical shutter.

19. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the vibrating element has a body portion, and wherein, in the case where a length of the body portion in a direction in which the vibrating element extends and contracts by the application of the AC voltage is defined as L (mm), L satisfies the relation: $1 \leq L < 7$mm.

20. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the length L of the body portion in the extension-and-contraction direction is more than 3mm.

21. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the arm portion is arranged at a substantially central portion of the body portion in the extension-and-contraction direction.

22. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the body portion has a short side substantially perpendicular to the extension-and-contraction direction of the body portion, and the contact portion is arranged at a substantially central portion of the short side.

23. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the body portion has a short side substantially perpendicular to the extension-and-contraction direction of the body portion, and the contact portion is arranged at a portion of the short side other than a substantially central portion thereof.

24. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the body portion has a centerline in a direction parallel to the extension-and-contraction direction, and the contact portion is arranged at a portion other than the centerline.

25. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the contact portion is arranged so as to protrude in the extension-and-contraction direction partly.

26. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the vibrating element has a vibrational node, and the arm portion supports the vibrating element at the vibrational node.

27. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the length of body portion of the vibrating element in the extension-and-contraction direction is longer than that in a direction perpendicular to the extension-and-contraction direction.

28. (New) The optical system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the vibrating element undergoes a complex vibration of combination of longitudinal vibration and bending vibration, and a resonant frequency of the longitudinal vibration is different from but close to that of the bending vibration.